

GUIDELINES RE: CHILDREN'S ILLNESS AND SCHOOL PROCEDURES FOR MEDICINES

Whilst we at school appreciate how difficult it can be sometimes to determine how ill a child is, we would like to remind you that children should be kept at home during the first days of an illness. Illnesses are spread rapidly throughout the school and we do not have the facilities to deal with really sick children. However, we do recognise that children should be in school as often as possible.

Below are some guidelines you may find useful. Please note these are guidelines taken from the NHS website.

Vomiting	48 hours at home after the last episode before returning to school.
Diarrhoea	48 hours at home after the last episode before returning to school.
Temperature	Children should not be in school with a temperature.
Cold	Children may return to school once a cold is 'drying up'.
Impetigo	If your child has impetigo, they will need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. As this condition is highly contagious, the infected area needs to be completely covered over.
Conjunctivitis	You do not need to keep your child away from school if they have conjunctivitis, unless they are feeling very unwell. Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.
Headaches and Stomach Aches	Frequent occurrences of these need to be investigated by a doctor, but the odd incident is not necessarily a reason to be sent home from school or kept away from school. (Parents/school must apply best judgement).

Rashes	Advice should be sought from your G.P. Many rashes are contagious and children should not be in school with these.
Head Lice	If you are notified of your child being infected, please treat with appropriate lotions/shampoos. Children found with head lice in school will be sent home.

Medicines in School

Children must not bring medicines/self help remedies to school without their parents' consent and the school's knowledge.

The school is only allowed to administer prescribed medicines after receipt of an authorising letter/form from the parent or guardian specifying dosage and timings. Whenever possible the medicine should be administered at home.

Any medicines brought into school must be handed over to a member of staff as they are to be kept locked in the school office or placed in the staff room fridge as appropriate.

In keeping with Kent County Council Guidance, the school will keep records of all medicines administered, recording dosage, time and signature of person responsible for giving the medicine.

Pain killers

Analgesics e.g. Aspirin/Paracetamol will NOT be given to the children. Children must not bring medicines like these to school. However, if prescribed by a doctor, we can give these medicines. Please note, we need evidence of the doctor's decision.

Inhalers

If parents consider their child is capable and responsible then the child may look after their own inhaler, alternatively, to ensure that a younger child has easy access to their inhaler, it could be kept in the class teacher's desk drawer. Children who require assistance with these will of course be given such assistance. **Parents have a responsibility to ensure, that if prescribed, their child has an inhaler for use in school.**

This information and guidance is being given in order that the school complies with legal Health and Safety requirements and works in partnership with you as responsible parents.